

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 17, 2022
REDWnG meeting

Updates on bills in House Natural Resources from Rep. Sheldon

- H.492 – bill addresses governance concerns with Act 250 – likely to move next week
 - o Bill creates board modeled after Public Utility Commission that would be vested with appeals authority over jurisdictional cases
- H.509 – bill clarifying jurisdiction of Act 250 – resolved by Supreme Court
 - o About towns without zoning or subdivision by-laws over 1 acre development sites
- H.511 – bill moved to Senate
 - o Bill seeks support housing development in villages and town centers
- S.234 – bill scheduled for a vote on Friday
 - o From Senate Natural Resources and Energy relating to Act 250
- H.501 – bill being discussed in House Natural Resources Committee
 - o Aimed at addressing growing problem of plastic waste in compost
 - H.115 – bill relating to collection of household waste
- H.697 – Use Value Appraisal bill currently in Ways & Means
 - o caucus heard testimony from Commissioner Snyder several weeks ago
 - o proposes narrow expansion of eligibility within Current Use Program for certain family-owned parcels that met specific criteria to be managed for old growth forest conditions
- S.134 – Environmental Justice Bill expected to come over from Senate Natural Resources soon
- Some optimism that the Senate will move the Bottle Bill by crossover
 - o Rep. Kimbell enquired whether the bill was being considered dealt with trains and outdoor recreation and Rep. Sheldon states her committee has not seen anything lately about it
- Discussion over statutory obligation to fund VHCB
 - o Many members support idea given the housing crisis across the state and need for policy to support private investment and reexamination of regulatory barriers
 - o Many bills on H and S that will ease the burden of development in designated downtowns

Letters of support

- H.697 – Use value Appraisal Bill – a letter drafted from caucus has expressed support for bill
 - o Many members support the bill
- Rep. Sibilia drafted a letter supporting H.511
 - o Bill relating to housing development in town and village centers
 - o She spoke briefly to the urgency in supporting housing policy in tandem with workforce development issues
- Caucus will only send each letter if it receives support from at least 20 caucus members – responses open to until Monday to signal support

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- Commissioner Schirling on regional dispatch meeting next week